

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (currently amended) A reinforced composite vehicle load floor of the sandwich type having a cellular core, the load floor comprising:
  - a load-bearing upper skin made of a reinforced thermoplastics material;
  - an upper skeletal frame structure of reinforcing slats;
  - a cellular core made of a thermoplastics material;
  - a lower skeletal frame structure of reinforcing slats; and
  - a bottom skin made of a reinforced thermoplastics material; the upper and lower skeletal frame structures of reinforcing slats being positioned symmetrically with respect to a plane formed by the cellular core at predetermined places against the skins and the cellular core wherein the load floor is capable of supporting 240 pounds of weight over 100 square inches with not more than 10 millimeters of deflection.
2. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein slats of each of the frame structures are positioned adjacent to front, back and side edges of the load floor.
3. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 2 wherein slats of each of the frame structures extend from positions adjacent the front, back and side edges of the load floor to a center of the load floor.
4. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 further comprising at least one outer covering layer made of a woven or non-woven fabric disposed on the upper skin wherein the load floor is a carpeted load floor.
5. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the load floor is substantially flat and is obtained from a single pressing stage.

6. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the load floor is a deep-drawn load floor and wherein the load floor is obtained from a pair of pressing stages.

7. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 5 wherein the single pressing stage has a forming pressure for forming the load floor which lies in the range  $10^6$  Pa to  $3 \times 10^6$  Pa.

8. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein while the load floor is being formed, the skins have a forming temperature lying in the range approximately  $160^\circ\text{C}$  to  $200^\circ\text{C}$ .

9. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the skins are made of a woven fabric or mat of glass fibers and of a thermoplastics material.

10. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reinforcing slats of the skeletal frame structures are made of reinforced thermoplastic composite.

11. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 10 wherein the composite is fiber-reinforced.

12. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 11 wherein the composite includes a depolymerizable and repolymerizable thermoplastic polymer resin.

13. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 12 wherein the resin is a thermoplastic polyurethane.

14. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 9 wherein the thermoplastics material of the skins is a polyolefin and preferably polypropylene.

15. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cellular core has an open-celled structure of the tubular or honeycomb cell type, constituted mainly of polyolefin and preferably polypropylene.

16. (canceled) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the load floor is capable of supporting 240 pounds of weight over 100 square inches with not more than 10 millimeters of deflection.

17. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the load floor is a structural component of a vehicle passenger compartment.

18. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 5 wherein the load floor has a substantially uniform thickness at a central portion thereof.

19. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 6 wherein the load floor has a substantially uniform thickness at a central portion thereof.

20. (original) The load floor as claimed in claim 19 wherein the depth of load floor is more than ten times its thickness.